ABSTRACT

Title of dissertation: SELECTED CELLO SONATAS FROM 1880–1950:

TRADITION AND INNOVATION

Chia-Yi Tseng, Doctor of Musical Arts, 2007

Dissertation directed by: Professor Evelyn Elsing

School of Music

In the Romantic era, composers were inspired to experiment and to expand the wide range of colors, dynamics, registers, and musical vocabularies of all instruments, including strings, because of a growing emphasis on virtuosity and brilliance among performers. Cello sonatas therefore started to emerge and evolve in many different and exciting ways.

The goal of this performance project was to broaden my familiarity with the sonata genre, as well as to discover both the traditional and innovative sides of the selected cello sonatas from 1880 to 1950, using the sonatas of Brahms, Franck, Poulenc, Rachmaninoff, Shostakovich, and Strauss.

The following is the list of sonatas I presented on three dissertation recitals in Gildenhorn Recital Hall. These public performances were recorded on compact disc.

#### Recital 1

Cesar Franck (1822–1890) Sonata in A Major (1886)

Serge Rachmaninoff (1873–1943) Sonata in G Minor, Op. 19 (1901)

Recital 2

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897) Sonata in F Major, Op. 99 (1886)

Dimitry Shostakovich (1906–1975) Sonata in D Minor, Op. 40 (1936)

Recital 3

Richard Strauss (1864–1949) Sonata in F Major, Op. 6 (1883)

Francis Poulenc (1899–1964) Sonata for Cello and Piano, Op. 143 (1948)

These sonatas are of German, French, and Russian origins because of the important influences of these three countries in musical history. I believe that the sonatas I chose are highly representative of varied musical styles of the Romantic era and are therefore the most valuable to this project.

### Selected Cello Sonatas from 1880–1950: Tradition and Innovation

by

Chia-Yi Tseng

Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the
University of Maryland, College Park in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Musical Arts
2007

Advisory Committee:

Professor Evelyn Elsing, Committee Chair

Professor James Stern

Professor James Ross

Professor Gerald Fischbach

Professor Chia-Hung Yang

# **DEDICATION**

To my father, mother, and my teacher in Paris, Mme Genevieve Teulliers

#### **Table of Contents**

CD1 Chia-Yi Tseng DMA Dissertation Recital I
 Selected Cello Sonata from 1880 to 1950
 December 12, 2005 at 8 pm, Gildenhorn Recital Hall
 University of Maryland, College Park

Chia-Yi Tseng, Cello Pei-Rong Lo, Piano Minah Kang, Piano

Cesar Franck (1822–1890)

[1]–[4] Sonata for Cello and Piano in A major
Allegretto Ben Moderato
Allegro/ Quasi Lento/ Tempo I
Recitativo- Fantasia. Ben Moderato
Allegretto Poco Mosso

Serge Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)

[5]–[8] Sonata for Cello and Piano in G minor, Op. 19Lento-Allegro Moderato- ModeratoAllegro ScherzandoAndante

Allegro Mosso-Moderato-Vivace

CDII Chia-Yi Tseng DMA Dissertation Recital II
Selected Cello Sonata from 1880 to 1950
May, 6, 2006 at 8 pm, Gildenhorn Recital Hall
University of Maryland, College Park

Chia-Yi Tseng, Cello

David Ballena, Piano

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

[1]-[4] Sonata for Cello and Piano in F Major, Op. 99

Allegro vivace

Adagio

Allegro passionate

Allegro molto

Dimitry Shostakovich (1906–1975)

[5]–[8] Sonata for Cello and Piano in D Minor, Op. 40

Allegro non Troppo

Allegro

Largo

Allegro

CDIII Chia-Yi Tseng DMA Dissertation Recital III

Selected Cello Sonata from 1880 to 1950

December 10, 2006 at 8 pm, Gildenhorn Recital Hall

University of Maryland, College Park

Chia-Yi Tseng, Cello

Pei-Rong Lo, Piano

Richard Strauss (1864–1949)

[1]–[3] Sonata for Cello and Piano in F major, Op. 6

Allegro Con Brio

Andante Ma Non Troppo

Finale: Allegro vivo

Francis Poulenc (1899–1964)

[4]-[7] Sonata for Cello and Piano, Op. 143

Allegro. Tempo Di Marcia

Cavatine. Tres Calme

Ballabile. Tres Anime et Gai

Largo/ Presto Subito/ Largo

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